Application No. Applicant(s) 10/660,641 SEGAWA ET AL. Fxaminer Art Unit The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308. 1. This communication is responsive to papers filed on August 30, 2007.	Best Available Copy		
Notice of Allowability Notice of Allowability Examiner	Dest Available Copy		
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Attachment(s)	Attachment(s)		
1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 6 ☑ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date	2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948	Paper No./Mail I	Date
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08) 7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment		7. 🛛 Examiner's Ame	ndment/Comment
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Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-25 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, none of the prior art teach or fairly suggest the limitation "a 4. selection step of selecting one attribute-classified image database corresponding to a present situation from a plurality of attribute-classified image databases classified respectively in accordance with a plurality of attributes corresponding to various situations of a shooting performed by a shooting means in respect of an object image to be discriminatively recognized and identified, and storing therein at least one reference image classified by the at least one attribute and also storing recognition ID attached uniquely to the at least one reference image respectively", in combination with the other limitations of the claims. The prior art of USPN 6,549,913 to Murakawa discloses an image recognition process comprising a database with reference images and attribute information for specifying object image recognition (Abstract). However, the prior art of Murakawa does not teach or fairly suggest a selection step of selecting one attribute-classified image database corresponding to a present situation from a plurality of attribute-classified image databases classified respectively in accordance with a plurality of attributes corresponding to various situations of a shooting performed by a shooting means in respect of an object image to be discriminatively recognized and identified, and storing therein at least one reference image classified by the at least one attribute and also storing recognition ID

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attached uniquely to the at least one reference image respectively, as disclosed in the limitations of claims 1, 9, 17 and 25.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron W. Carter whose telephone number is (571) 272-7445. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 4:30 am (Mon. - Fri.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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